

REMARKS

Amendments

Claims 6-7 are amended to delete unnecessary language. New claims 8-24 are directed to further aspects of applicants' invention. See, e.g., the paragraph bridging pages 4-5, page 6, line 9-page 8, line 12, and Figures 1-2.

Rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Claims 6-7 are rejected as allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claims are rejected for lack of antecedent basis for certain terms recited in section (c) of claim 6. These objections are eliminated by the above amendments. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 6-7 are rejected as allegedly being obvious in view of Foglietta et al. (US 6,712,880). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Foglietta et al. (US '880) was filed October 22, 2001. US '880 claims the benefit of US provisional applications Serial Nos. 60/272,417, filed March 1, 2001, and 60/274,069, filed March 7, 2001. The rejection fails to indicate whether the portions of the disclosure of US '880 are disclosed in either US 60/272,417 and 60/274,069. Thus, the rejection only supports an effective prior art date for US '880 of October 22, 2001.

The instant application was filed August 16, 2001, i.e., **before** the filing date of US '880. Thus, from the information presented in the rejection, US '880 does not constitute prior art with respect to the instant application, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Moreover, the instant application claims priority to US 6,278,035 (Serial No. 09/527,175), filed March 17, 2000, i.e., **before** the filing date of US '880 and **before** the filing dates of either of US 60/272,417 and 60/274,069, the two priority applications claimed by US '880.

Thus, US '880 does not constitute prior art with respect to the instant application. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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